

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 166

Introduced by Assembly Member Atkins

July 1, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 166—Relative to Dropout Recovery Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 166, as introduced, Atkins. Dropout Recovery Week

This measure would declare the week of August 4, 2014, to August 10, 2014, inclusive, as Dropout Recovery Week, and would state that the Legislature intends to encourage the support of dropout recovery high schools with creative teaching strategies, alternative assessments, and adequate resources.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The America’s Promise Alliance found, in 2014,
2 that pupils drop out of high school because they are overwhelmed
3 by the effects of toxic living conditions such as homelessness,
4 violent surroundings, abuse or neglect, and catastrophic family
5 health events; and
6 WHEREAS, The 2014 Building a GradNation Report found
7 that the nation cannot achieve its graduation goals without
8 increasing California’s graduation rate for Latino and African
9 American pupils and without providing more investment for
10 dropout recovery; and
11 WHEREAS, Research by the Alliance for Excellent Education
12 concludes that if only one-half of the dropouts from a single year
13 were to earn a diploma, the economic benefits to California would

1 include an additional \$1.4 billion in earnings annually for the
2 reengaged pupils and an annual increase in state and local tax
3 revenues of \$167 million; and

4 WHEREAS, Research further shows that reengaged learners
5 demonstrate higher levels of civic engagement, contribute to the
6 cultural strength of their communities, and are significantly less
7 likely to be unemployed, on public assistance, or arrested for a
8 violent crime; and

9 WHEREAS, Research by WestEd demonstrates the challenges
10 faced by schools seeking to reengage dropouts in that one-half of
11 the dropouts who return to school stay for one year or less,
12 one-third of returning dropouts fail to complete even one course
13 after they reenroll, and as few as 18 percent of returning dropouts
14 graduate; and

15 WHEREAS, Successful dropout recovery high schools in
16 California are operating under Section 52052.3 of the Education
17 Code in partnership with the Workforce Investment Act, the
18 California Conservation Corps, and other federal and state career
19 technical education partners to provide significant social, economic,
20 and academic benefits for their pupils and for California's
21 population as a whole; and

22 WHEREAS, These successful dropout recovery high schools
23 utilize multiple strategies, including accelerated learning
24 pedagogies, competency-based instruction, and open entry-open
25 exit enrollment; and

26 WHEREAS, These successful dropout recovery high schools
27 attract and retain high-quality staff committed to transforming
28 their pupils from being at risk of failure to being at promise of
29 success; now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
31 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares the week
32 of August 4, 2014, to August 10, 2014, inclusive, as Dropout
33 Recovery Week, in honor of the schools and staff who work to
34 reengage pupils who have previously dropped out of school, and
35 in honor of the pupils who overcome significantly personal
36 challenges to reengage in high school and become transformed
37 learners in preparation for college and a future career; and be it
38 further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature intends to encourage the support
- 2 of dropout recovery high schools with creative teaching strategies,
- 3 alternative assessments, and adequate resources; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 5 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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